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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Brenda G. McKenna

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND REPORT FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, pesticides are used in homes, in other buildings  
and in the environment to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate  
insects, rodents, fungi, weeds and bacteria and other  
microorganisms that have deleterious effects on humans, animals  
and plants; and

WHEREAS, it is no exaggeration to say that pesticides have  
saved millions of lives through the eradication of many insect-  
and rodent-carried diseases and in saving and increasing crop  
yields; and

WHEREAS, while the environmental and toxicity profile of  
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1 modern pesticides has significantly improved over the decades,  
2 both the misuse and use of pesticides may negatively impact the  
3 health of children, adults, pets and wildlife; and

4 WHEREAS, public awareness and concerns related to the  
5 health impacts of pesticides have increased in recent years;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the federal environmental protection agency has  
8 recommended the use of a pest management system that emphasizes  
9 nonchemical approaches to pest control, particularly in areas  
10 in which children are present, such as parks and school  
11 grounds; and

12 WHEREAS, ecological land and building management practices  
13 that emphasize nonchemical methods of pest prevention and  
14 management can eliminate or significantly reduce the use of and  
15 exposure to pesticides while controlling pest populations; and

16 WHEREAS, least-toxic pesticides should only be used in a  
17 designated situation after nonchemical options have been  
18 attempted and exhausted; and

19 WHEREAS, an understanding of current pest management  
20 practices and policies used in public schools can provide a  
21 baseline for the need and future development of pest management  
22 guidelines for public schools;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of agriculture and  
25 the public education department be requested to appoint a task

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1 force to study the use of pesticides in public schools; and  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be inclusive of  
3 those individuals that the departments believe to be relevant  
4 to accomplish requested tasks; and  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider the  
6 efficacy of ecological pest management practices, including  
7 benefits and drawbacks, for indoor and outdoor use; and  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
9 findings and recommendations by November 1, 2022 to the  
10 governor, the legislature and the appropriate local government  
11 officials; and  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of  
14 agriculture, the secretary of public education, the New Mexico  
15 municipal league and the New Mexico association of counties for  
16 distribution to local government officials.